

# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS**

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 7, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers, 2nd Floor**

**Westerly Town Hall**

### **1. 6:02 PM – CALL TO ORDER**

**Present: Robert Ritacco, Co-Chair; Gail Mallard, Co-Chair; Richard Smith, Treasurer; Chaplin Barnes; M. Ann Lamb; Jonathan Eckel; Joseph MacAndrew; William Haase, Town Planner; Thomas J. Liguori, Jr.; Rita Deane; Richard Anthony; and Thomas Toscano, Jr. (arrived at 6:25 pm)**

**Linda C. Hebert, Recording Secretary**

**Absent: Richard D. Comolli; David W. Gervasini; Brian McCuin; Harrison Day; Charles Vacca, Town Assessor; Nicholas Castagna, Town Council Liason; Anthony Giordano, Zoning Official; Joseph T. Turo, Esquire, Town Manager**

**Co-Chair Co-Chair Ritacco called the meeting to order.**

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 8/3/06 MEETING**

**Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. MacAndrew, that the aforesaid minutes be accepted and approved as printed.**

**Co-Chair Mallard & Ritacco informed the committee that letters were sent to all committee members regarding attendance, but no responses have been received as of yet. Co-Chair are concerned about attendance of those who have missed more than half the meetings and will make telephone calls to these members to see if they are still interested in participating in this committee.**

### **3. UPDATED REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**The Committee reviewed any re-writes received for this element and made the following changes and/or accepted the summaries as written:**

#### **Open Space and Recreation Element**

**Page 84 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 - Acquire Key Potential Open Space Parcels – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 85 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 - Expand Town Beach – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following change:**

**“Armenakes” property shall be changed to “privately-owned property”.**

**Page 86 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Purchase an Additional Patrol Boat to Improve River Management and Enforcement – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Once the schools are out for” shall be replaced with “During the”.**

**“from there will” shall be deleted.**

**“The Assistant Harbor Master will use” shall be replaced with “The Assistant Harbor Master uses”.**

**The paragraph under the heading “Management Strategy” shall be deleted.**

## **2.3 IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES**

**Page 87 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 - Provide Picnic Sites and Hiking Trails – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following addition:**

**Santo Algieri Park shall be added after “Complex”.**

**After “There is no designated parking ... entrance.”, the following language shall be added: “and no sanitary facilities.”**

**The paragraph beginning, “Woody Hill Management Area: Woody Hill ...” shall be deleted in its entirety.**

**Page 88 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Upgrade All Existing Town and School Playgrounds and Provide Necessary Future Maintenance and Upgrades to Meet Changing Recreational Standards – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following change:**

**The letter “f” in “Craig Field” shall be capitalized.**

## **2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Page 89 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Use a Variety of Methods to Protect Westerly’s Open Space – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 90 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 - Designate and Protect Scenic Roads In Westerly – This summarization shall be included as written, with the following change:**

**“The Pond View Golf Course” shall be changed to “The Weekapaug Golf Club”.**

**Page 91 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 - Increase Annual Budget for Maintenance and Improvements of Town-Owned Recreational Facilities – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“The Westerly Recreational Department” shall be changed to “The Westerly Recreation Department”.**

**The “f” in Cimalore Field shall be capitalized.**

**Page 92 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 7 - Negotiate With the State Agencies to Improve State-Owned Facilities in Westerly – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“fisherman’s parking” shall not be capitalized.**

**The spelling of Breachway shall be corrected.**

**Page 92 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 8 - Periodically Update the Open Space and Recreation Plan – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Town” shall be capitalized.**

**“remains unfunded” shall be replaced with “needs funding”.**

**“remains without an overall coordinated ...” shall be replaced with “needs to adopt an overall coordinated ...”**

## **2.6 ACTIONS REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY**

**Page 96 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Re-evaluate Use of Santo Algiere Park and Chapman Pond – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“the Department of Fish and Wildlife” shall be changed to “RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife Service”.**

**Throughout all documents, “DEM” shall be replaced with “RIDEM”.**

**Page 96 –RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Investigate Creation of Bike Paths in Conjunction With Scenic Roads – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following correction:**

**“Vanassee Hanger Brustlin, Inc.” shall be changed to “Vanassee Hangen Brustlin, Inc.”**

**Page 97 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 - Investigate Expansion Needs for Senior Center – This summarization shall be rewritten to conform to what was previously included in the Services and Facilities Element.**

**Page 97 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – after-School Recreation Programs – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with**

**the following changes:**

**“Classes are held ... in Westerly.” shall be changed to read,  
“Month-long classes are held at all the elementary schools in  
Westerly regularly throughout the school year.”**

**The sentence which reads “Classes are held ... year.” shall be deleted  
and incorporated into the above sentence.**

**“Courses are one month in duration.” shall be deleted.**

#### **4. UPDATED REVIEW OF TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

##### **Traffic and Transportation Element**

**The spelling of Transportation in the heading shall be corrected.**

**Page 30 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 - Review Unauthorized or  
Illegal Use of Public Roadway Shoulders Which May Cause Safety  
Problems and Obstruct Pedestrian Access – This summarization shall  
read: “No action has been taken.”**

**Page 31 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 - Develop a Citizen’s  
Committee to Work With Amtrak to restore Station Parking and**

**Historical Station Building, and Improve the Accessibility of the Train Station to Handicapped and Elderly Individuals – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

## **5. UPDATED REVIEW OF NATURAL, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

### **NATURAL, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT**

#### **WETLANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Page 48 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop Stormwater Control and Erosion and Sedimentation ordinances and require Best Management Practices (BMP's) to control non-point source contamination of water resources. Design ordinances to include a “carrying capacity” of water resources in order to control cumulative impacts of either stormwater pollutant loading, increased hydraulic loading or habitat elimination. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Develop a water quality monitoring program for inland and coastal waters to gage the effectiveness of protection measures and serve as an early warning system in the event of contamination. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety,**



**with the following changes:**

**“Clean Water Act” shall be changed to read “Federal Clean Water Act”.**

**“DEM” shall be changed to read “RIDEM” (in this paragraph and anywhere else in this document).**

**“federal” and “(CWA)” shall both be deleted from the last sentence.**

**Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Incorporate results of water quality monitoring into ongoing land planning and regulation efforts conducted by the Town. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be modified to read:**

**“In response to better understanding of water quality issues, the Aquifer Protection Overlay District has changed the zoning requirements for building lots in the vicinity of environmentally-sensitive areas.”**

**Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – The Planning Board and Conservation Commission undertake an environmental educational program to increase public awareness of natural resource values and encourage property owners to protect ecologically important areas via easements and gifts of land, etc. Special emphasis could be given to wetland resources, inland and coastal. (Administrative and**

**Management)- This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Planning Board” shall be changed to “Planning Department”.**

## **GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop a comprehensive local ground water protection strategy. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following change:**

**“reviews” shall be changed to “revised”.**

**Page 51 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Prepare a local Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan in accordance with RI DEM WHP Program requirements. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 51 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Revise zoning ordinance to include an aquifer protection overlay district. (Regulatory) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 52 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Develop inventory of potential contamination sources. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 52 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire areas for protection purposes. (Capital Improvement) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“54-acre” shall be changed to “229-acre”.**

**“comprised almost of ...” shall be changed to “comprised almost entirely of ... “**

## **PAWCATUCK RIVER SYSTEM**

**Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Establish “River Corridor” along the entire length of the Town bordering the Pawcatuck River. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Hence this recommended ... implemented.” shall be deleted and replaced with “However, certain objectives have been accomplished by the establishment of Marine Commercial zoning.”**

**Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Integrate the recommendations of the Pawcatuck River Estuary Management Project (Harbor Management Plan) into the Town’s land use regulations and enforcement/management programs where appropriate. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management)-This**

**summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“This action ... However,” shall be amended to read “This action has been largely superceded by State action. In 1992 ... “**

**“Any local land development permits or approvals are subject to RICRMC Assent.” shall be added as the last sentence.**

## **COASTAL RESOURCES**

**The spelling of “Coastal” in the heading shall be corrected.**

**Page 54 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop land use standards (such as Salt Ponds Overlay Protection District) that reflect the sensitive nature of the coastal environment including coordination with the policies of SAMP and CRMC for coastal ponds. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Through a combination ... resources.” shall be deleted.**

**“60,000 square feet to reflect” shall be replaced with “meet”.**

**“in approving development plans. For example:” Shall be deleted and replaced with “Examples of use of Regulatory Authority include:”**

**“w/s” shall be replaced with “n/s”.**

**“the” shall be replaced with “greater than”.**

**Page 54 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Continue to provide protection for the most fragile areas and support management and educational capabilities of the fire districts and other owner organizations. (Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“The Fire ... in the Town.” shall be deleted.**

## **WILDLIFE HABITAT**

**Page 55 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Insure the protection of rare species habitat by monitoring development projects within or adjacent to identified sites and requiring restrictions on activities which may be deemed harmful to these environments. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“insure the protection ... to these environments.” shall be deleted.**

**“DEM” shall be replaced with “RIDEM”.**

**“and is ongoing” shall be added after “state wildlife agencies”.**

**“Town” should be capitalized.**

**“Rover” shall be changed to “River”.**

**Page 55 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Strengthen the management programs for Napatree Point and Maschaug beach to control recreation overuse and natural predation of rare shorebirds. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following change:**

**“Strengthen the ... rare shorebirds.” shall be deleted.**

## **HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Page 35 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 - Establish Historic District Commission (HDC) and historic district zoning for recognized areas. Develop design standards to be applied within designated historic areas which are reasonable and consistent with historic preservation goals. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management) – Mr. Haase and Mr. Barnes will re-write this summarization.**

**Page 35 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Review, revise and update the 1978 preliminary survey of historic records. Determine if**

**deficiencies exist and additional resources should be added to survey. Nominate eligible historic resources to state and national registers. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following changes:**

**“Deficiencies, ... since the 1992” shall be replaced with “The 1991”**

**Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 –Apply to the RIHPC for Certified Local Government (CLG) status – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Utilize existing groups in the Town and State (including the Historic District Commission, if established) to foster community awareness of historic preservation programs on a long-term basis. (Administrative and Management) – Mr. Haase and Mr. Barnes will re-write this summarization .**

**Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire a map of archaeologically sensitive areas in Westerly. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be rewritten to read:**

**“This action has not been undertaken by the Town of Westerly largely because of concerns of potential vandalism of archaeological sites.”**

**Page 37 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 – Consider adopting a site development bylaw requiring an archaeological assessment in**

**archaeological sensitive areas. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be rewritten to read:**

**“This action was considered but not adopted by the Town of Westerly. Sensitivity has been determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.”**

**Page 37 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 7 – Consider the re-use of the old Town Hall building as a center for cultural activities and/or professional uses. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.**

**Page 38 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 8 – Integrate cultural programs and organizations with downtown revitalization efforts. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization is still pending Ms. Deane.**

## **6. UPDATED REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**This item is to be included on the next agenda.**

## **7. UPDATED REVIEW OF HOUSING ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



**This item is to be included on the next agenda.**

## **8. DISCUSSION OF LAND USE ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPRE-HENSIVE PLAN**

**This item is to be included on the next agenda.**

## **9. UPDATED REVIEW OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT REGARDING FIRE DISTRICTS**

**This item is to be included on the next agenda.**

## **10. DISCUSSION ON PLANNING BOARD MEETING**

**This item is to be included on the next agenda.**

## **11. OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Haase submitted a Table of Contents for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Committee was asked to read this over for discussion at the next meeting.**

**Mr. Haase also submitted a Summary Status of Recommended Actions and asked the Committee to read this over for discussion at the next meeting.**

**Mr. Smith submitted a Preliminary Timetable to the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.**

**Mr. Haase submitted a memorandum from Donna Giordano, Town Clerk, regarding the Post Road Overlay District Proposed Ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.**

## **12. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC/COMMITTEE RESPONSE**

**None.**

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Unanimously approved by the Committee.**

**ATTEST:**

**Linda C. Hebert**

**Recording Secretary**